

It is hard for people to experience Arkansas without noticing the remarkable accomplishments of Bill Clark. It is not hard to imagine just what makes Bill Clark so special to his family, his friends, and to Arkansas. He was a person of great faith, a loving husband and father, a doting grandfather, and a humorous, compassionate friend to all he met. Bill never approached a situation with a negative attitude; rather, he saw everything as an opportunity to benefit his community. Bill will be well remembered for his generosity and commitment to improving his community.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 90th birthday of one of America's and Alabama's most talented and acclaimed residents, Ms. Kathryn Tucker Windham. Ms. Windham is a beloved storyteller, author, playwright, photographer, television and radio personality and, most importantly, a woman of faith, integrity, grace and high ideals.

This smalltown girl has written larger than life tales including "Thirteen Alabama Ghosts and Jeffery", along with many other historically based ghost-stories that involve smalltown urban legends in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi. She has also written works like "Twice Blessed", "GRITS" and "Alabama, One Big Front Porch", which reveal the rich joys of Alabama living.

She grew up in Thomasville, AL, not too far from my rural home and not too far from another notable Alabama writer—Harper Lee. Her capacity for storytelling and writing started early, as a news reporter. But she did not stop there allowing her natural talent and inclinations to lead her to a higher plane of national renown. It is always inspirational to see a real person, an individual American, follow their own calling and achieve success.

Ms. Windham represents the highest values of our State and region. This is so because she was raised right, studied hard, thought deeply, and was committed to a life that enriches others. A graduate of my alma mater, Huntingdon College, she followed its admonition, "Enter to grow in wisdom; go forth to apply wisdom in service."

I have known her and her son Ben for many years. I am so in awe of her. Not just for her noteworthy achievements, but because of the content of her character. She is an entertaining storyteller for sure, but she is a truth teller also. Her works reflect with truth the nature of the human condition. In them, she displays a love for all persons that reflects well on her rich heritage of religious faith.

She, from a lifetime of experience and insight, has been a leader in racial reconciliation in her home area. Persons of her integrity and stature can

make a positive difference and she has. She supports good causes, knows in remarkable detail the history of the smallest communities in our State, and knows the importance of simply remembering. She loves children, capturing them with tall tales while stressing education and personal character.

Her wonderful southern accent is well remembered on NPR's "All Things Considered" and her commentaries are still heard on Alabama Public Radio.

I applaud her on her many achievements, and I am thankful to have such a beacon of literary excellence shining from Alabama. She is highly recognized for her achievements by the whole State and around the world and was one of the 13 artists chosen to represent the State by the Alabama State Council for the Arts at Alabama in France and Monaco in 2000. She was also honored in 2003 with the establishment of the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum at Alabama Southern College.

Fellow Alabama author Harper Lee, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird", which is set in Monroeville not far from Thomasville, nominated Ms. Windham to the Alabama Academy of Honor in 2003. Some of her other accolades include: Alabama Humanities Award in 2000, the Governor's Award for the Arts, the National Storytelling Association's Circle of Excellence Award and Lifetime Achievement Award, the University of Alabama's Society of Fine Arts' Alabama Award, the Selma Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year, and she was inducted into the University of Alabama College of Communications Hall of Fame.

In true poetic form, I think, Ms. Windham sums up her insights in her book "Alabama, One Big Front Porch":

Alabama, they say, is like one big front porch where folks gather on summer nights to tell tales and to talk family. The stories they tell are all alike in their Southern blend of exaggeration, humor, pathos, folklore and romanticism. Family history is woven into the stories. And pride. And humor. Always humor.

I know I speak for all Alabamians and all Americans when I express my gratitude for your eloquence, your literary achievements, and your humanity, and say, "Happy Birthday Kathryn Tucker Windham!"

In closing, I would like to leave the Senate with a few of her words that truly embody the spirit of her work and life:

I think we need to be put back in touch with our childhood . . . to be reminded of what's important, like memories about people we loved, or things that happened to us that affected our lives, things we can laugh about and shed a few tears about . . . I think storytelling is a way of saying "I love you. I love you enough to tell you something that means a great deal to me."●

NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, today I congratulate the 2008 recipients of the

New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards. These prestigious awards, commonly called the "ED"ies, are presented each year to individuals and schools who demonstrate the highest level of excellence in education.

The "ED"ies were instituted as a way to honor the best of the best among New Hampshire's educators. For 15 years, annual award winners have been drawn from a rich source of talented and successful teachers, administrators, schools, and school boards. This year's recipients are no exception.

Those individuals selected have been compared against a criteria set by others in their discipline through their sponsoring organization. Schools are chosen by experienced educators and community leaders in New Hampshire based on guidelines established by the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Board of Directors. I am proud to recognize the individuals and schools who will receive this honor on June 7, 2008, and look forward to personally presenting this year's award for Secondary School of Excellence to Londonderry High School, as well as the Presidential Awards for Math and Science to Kimberly Knighton of Profile School and Louis Broad of Timberlane High School, respectively.

As a graduate of Salem High School, I am especially pleased that this year's New Hampshire Teacher of the Year, Benjamin Adams, has taught in Salem for 12 years. As I serve in the United States Senate, I am grateful for the excellent education I received in our New Hampshire public schools, and congratulate all of this year's award winners.

I ask that the list of the 2008 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award winners be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

2008 NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Dr. Maurissa Abecassis; Benjamin Adams; Ina Ahern; Susan Antico; Dawn Bechtold; Alexander J. Blastos; Louis Broad; James K. Crane; Heather R. Cummings; Blanche Garant; Tobi Gray Chassie; Dorothy Grazier; Cynthia Grisa; Jacquelyn Hall; Percy Hill; Mark Humphreys; Kevin Irwin; Maria Knee; Kimberley Knighton; Dan LaFleur; William Marston; Curt Martin; Jan Martin; John Miles; Carl J. Nelson; Christina Nelson; Jill Pinard; Virginia Pinard; Dennis Pymm; Michael Reardon; Christine Reinart; David Seiler; Elise Smith; Bill Tirone; Carolann Wais; Bradley Wolff; and Ellen Zimmerman, RN, M.Ed.

Chichester School Board, Cooperative Middle School, Londonderry High School, Adeline C. Marston Elementary School, Pittsfield Elementary School, Simonds Elementary School.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL BURWELL BAXTER BELL

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the professional dedication, vision, and military service of GEN B.B. Bell, who is retiring from the U.S. Army after 39 years of dedicated service. It is a privilege for me to recognize the many outstanding achievements General Bell has provided the

Army and our great Nation. General Bell was commissioned as a distinguished military graduate and second lieutenant in 1969 upon graduation from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Following commissioning, General Bell specialized in armor and served with distinction as he rose through the ranks. His orders took him to posts throughout the United States, Germany, and the Middle East.

General Bell assumed command of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces command, and United States Forces Korea on February 3, 2006.

During his time in command, North Korea made provocative missile launches and numerous demilitarized zone and airspace incursions. Despite these threats, General Bell maintained military readiness even as he reduced the U.S. footprint in Korea by moving soldiers, civilians, and family members south, thus transforming the commands in Korea.

In addition, General Bell has been a principal participant in the fast-paced bilateral military and political discussions, where he has earned the reputation as a well-respected ambassador for the United States. He also developed and maintained close ties with the military and civilian leadership of the Republic of Korea in partnership with the U.S. Ambassador to Korea. He has helped fuse a lasting bond between the two countries.

General Bell is a soldier's soldier. Throughout his career, he has made the wellbeing of soldiers, families, and civilians a priority. He expects those serving below him to do the same.

During service in Desert Shield and Desert Storm as the United States Central Command executive officer, he worked to ensure that each soldier was properly prepared, trained, and equipped for the mission and that every family was cared for by a Family Readiness Group.

Throughout his illustrious career in the Army, General Bell has been nothing less than exceptional. He is a great credit to the Army and this country. I wish him and his wife Katie well in their new endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5658. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5658. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6359. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information" (RIN0581-AC70)(Docket No. AMS-LS-07-0056) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6360. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Avocados Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Revision of the Maturity Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0054) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6361. A communication from the Administrator, Office of the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various Statutes" (Docket No. AMS-LRRS-08-0015) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6362. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Potato Grade Standards" (Docket No. AMS-2006-0136) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6363. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Peanut Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Amendment to Primary Peanut-Producing States and Adjustment of Membership" (Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0001) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6364. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0155) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6365. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2008-2009 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0135) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6366. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in South Texas; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0151) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6367. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pistachios Grown in California; Change in Reporting Requirements" (Docket No. FV07-983-2 FR) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6368. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pistachios Grown in California; Change in Reporting Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0095) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6369. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida" (Docket No. FV07-905-610) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6370. A communication from the Administrator, Dairy Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Appalachian and Southeast Marketing Areas; Correction" (Docket No. DA-07-03 A) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6371. A communication from the Administrator, Poultry Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increase in Fees and Charges for Egg, Poultry, and Rabbit Grading; Correction" (Docket No. AMS-PY-08-0030) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6372. A communication from the Administrator, Dairy Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Dairy Promotion and Research Program, Section